

Mr. MS. I am quite
delighted with it, and
enter into
spirit of the book
entirely. I have now
gone through it
; and the more I read
the better I am pleased.
I never
• any professions, but if
you can do no better
take me
i ally upon trust; at
least I will be faithful
to your
b and can undertake to
manage it exactly in
accordance
our wishes in
Burlington Street
[Colburn's offices].
Ue is an odious word
which shall be henceforth
banished
/ocabulary. I only long
to receive my
credentials, for
id you have no time to
lose on account of a
very
ordinary coincidence,¹
which I dare not
explain on
c, but of which you shall
know enough the first
time we
to prove the advantage of
its going to press
immediately,
moment I have your
permission and
instructions I will
s to C[olburn]. Pray
send me the remainder
of your
as soon as possible, for I
am in a state of complete
excita-
the subject.--1 forget Mr.
DTs Christian initial so
direct^t Junior.¹²

Your sincere friend
and ally

S.A.

: Mrs. Austen's instance
Colburn. accepted the novel
publication, though the
secret of the authorship was
•ously withheld from him,
as even for a time from
Eieli's own family. That the
mystification might be)lete,

Mrs. Austen copied the whole of the manuscript in her own hand and her friends believed that she had said to write the story; but her letters at the time confirm the statement she made more than half a century later: 'She had given him advice and had occasionally induced him to suppress or modify passages which she considered objectionable in taste, but

the reference is without doubt to the approaching appearance of her second novel *David Copperfield*.

Sir Henry Layard, writing half a century later of events "which he remembered when he was a child, has, as this letter and others show, attested the intimacy between the Austens and Disraeli, and has perhaps somewhat exaggerated the part they played in his life. The story seems to me of doubtful authenticity, and not less so the story which is often quoted of Sir Henry Layard's authority of accompanying his aunt in a call on the Disraelis and finding 'Ben' in the middle of a boxing lesson.